

# SIKES DISPOSAL PITS

## TEXAS

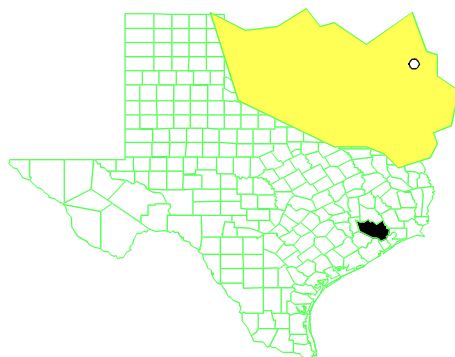
EPA ID# TXD980513956

## EPA REGION 6

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 09

Harris County

Updated: 7/17/97



## Site Description

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- Location:**
- The site is located about two miles southwest of Crosby, immediately north of old U.S. Highway 90, and roughly 20 miles northeast of Houston, Harris County, Texas
- Population:**
- Approximately 10,000 people reside in Crosby and the surrounding communities.
- Setting:**
- The nearest residence and nearest drinking water well are 1,000 feet from the site.
  - The site is comprised of approximately 185 acres.
  - Evidence of uncontrolled waste dumping was found throughout the site.
  - The site is bordered by the San Jacinto River on the west, Jackson Bayou on the north, and old U.S. Highway 90 on the south.
- Hydrology:**
- The site is characterized by river alluvium overlying Texas Coastal Plain deposits.
  - Shallow water-bearing zones occur in the alluvium.
  - A second water producing zone is found in a sandy silt zone of the Coastal Plain Deposits at about a 65 foot depth.
  - The Chicot and Evangeline Aquifers occur below this zone, beneath several hundred feet of clay.
  - The site lies within the 100-year floodplain of San Jacinto River.

## Wastes and Volumes

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- A wide variety of organic and inorganic wastes were deposited indiscriminately at the site.
- Waste volumes at the site were approximately as follows:
  - o 350 million gallons contaminated ground and surface water;
  - o 496,254 tons of organic sludge and contaminated soils; and
  - o 2000 drums of mixed waste.

## Site Assessment and Ranking

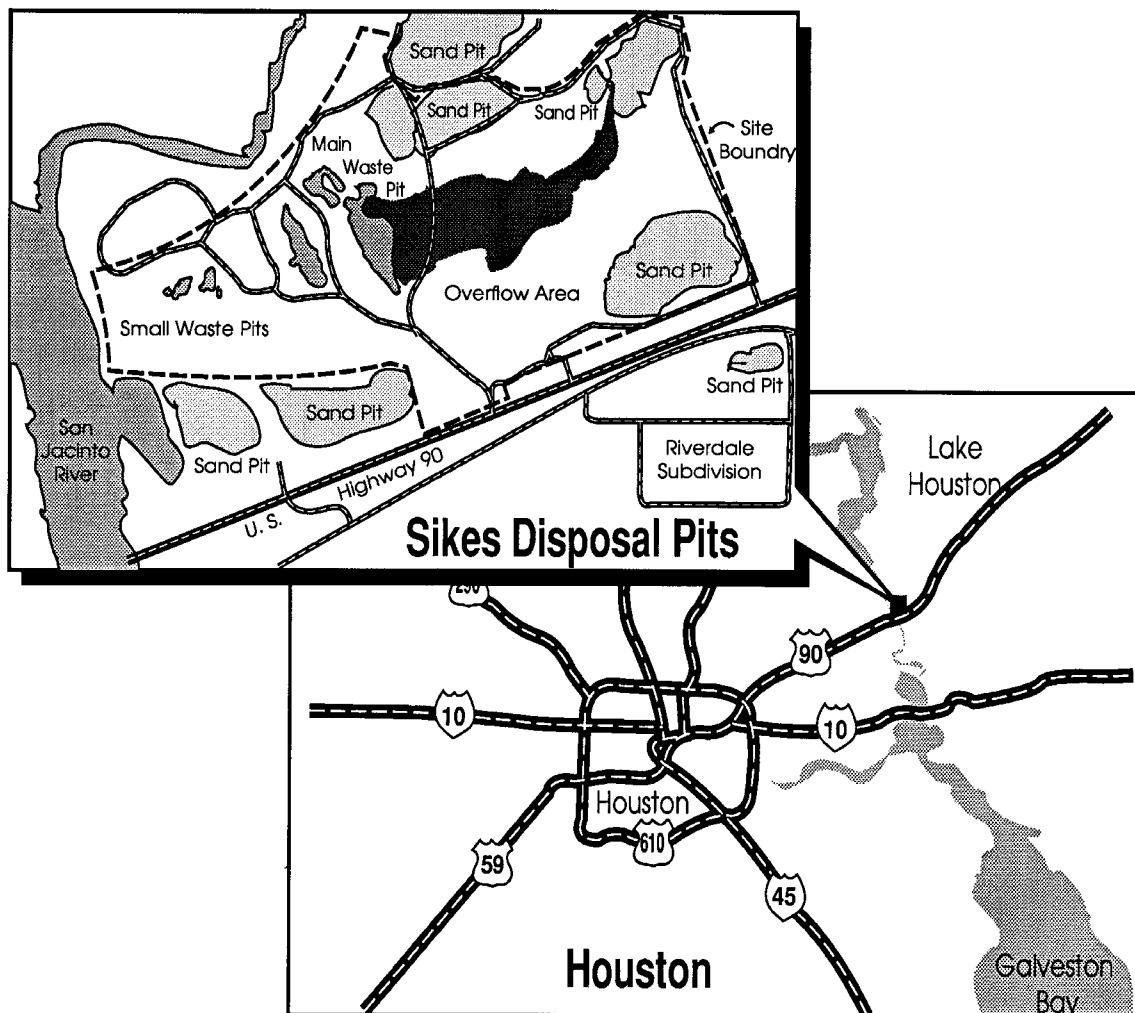
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### NPL LISTING HISTORY

Site HRS Score: 61.62  
Proposed Date: 10/23/81  
Final Date: 9/08/83  
NPL Update: No. 1

## Site Map and Diagram

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# The Remediation Process

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## Site History:

- In the early to late 1960's a variety of chemical wastes from the area petrochemical companies were disposed in unlined sand pits on-site.
- Site operation conducted until early 1967, when the facility closed.
- Wastes contained organic chemicals and heavy metals (such as arsenic, mercury, cadmium, chromium and lead).
- In June 1983, EPA removed approximately 40 cubic yards of phenolic tars and sand, and landfilled the wastes to an off-site hazardous waste disposal site. The pit was then backfilled and covered with clean sand.
- In September, 1986, the Record of Decision for the site was signed that called for incineration of site wastes.
- During March and April 1988, EPA fenced the site.
- In July 1989, EPA repaired fences due to flooding, and to deny access to children who were apparently using the site as a playground.
- Remedial Action construction bids were first solicited by the State in September, 1989, but EPA canceled them as being noncompetitive (only one contractor submitted a bid of \$137 million; nearly 150% of the ROD).
- The second, revised, request for proposals resulted in 4 valid bids ranging from \$91 to \$99 million; IT-Davy's low bid was accepted in June, 1990.
- Incineration of one billion pounds of contaminated soils was completed in June, 1994.

## Health Considerations:

- Possible human health problems could be caused by contact or ingestion of site contaminants.
- Fishing and hunting activities occur routinely around the site.

## Other Environmental Risks:

- Surface water and ground water were contaminated.
- The site is in the floodplain and is frequently inundated.
- A large area of sludge overflow extended eastward from the main waste pit to the San Jacinto River.

## Record of Decision

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Signed: September 18, 1986

- The Record of Decision (ROD) for the Sikes Disposal Pit site called for onsite incineration of sludge and soils, and treatment of contaminated water; this was accomplished in two phases.
- In the first phase (October 1990 through January 1992), the site was prepared for remediation, including construction of flood control structures, installation of a temporary incinerator, and construction of a water treatment facility.
- During the second phase, all wastes were incineration eliminating the threats to human health and the source of contamination to the ground water; removal of treatment facilities and site restoration were completed in 1994.

<u>Other Remedies Considered</u>	<u>Reason Not Chosen</u>
1. "No Action"	Too great threat from site, needs action
2. Off-site landfill for RCRA sludge	Does not protect ground water
3. On-site landfill	Does not protect ground water
4. Off-site incineration	Too costly
5. Cap & slurry wall	Flooding would cause cap integrity problems

## Community Involvement

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- Community Involvement Plan: Developed 8/83, revised 12/87.
- Open houses and workshops: 1/88, 1/89, 10/90 (TWC), 2/91, 1/92, 11/92
- Proposed Plan Fact Sheet and Public Meeting: 8/86
- ROD Fact Sheet: 9/86
- EPA Milestone Fact Sheets: 1/83, 7/86, 9/86, 1/90, 4/90,
- TWC Milestone Fact Sheets: 12/89, 5/90, 9/90, 12/90, 12/93
- Commemorative event in 1995 with TNRCC to announce completion of cleanup.
- Citizens on site mailing list: 287

- Constituency Interest:

\* High profile site; moderate/mixed citizen interest. Sikes was included with French Ltd. in a \$25 billion class action citizen suit.

\* Community issues include air emissions from the incineration remedy, fear that the incinerator would become a permanent installation and accept wastes from other sites.

- Site Repository: Crosby Public Library, 135 Hare Road, Crosby, TX 77532

## Technical Assistance Grant

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- Availability Notice: 4/88, re-advertised 8/17/90 and 8/31/90
- Letters of Intent Received:
  - 1) Environmental Relief Committee (ERC) - 4/25/88 (withdrawn)
  - 2) Barrett-Crosby Civic League (BCCL) - 8/21/90
- Final Application Received: BCCL - 8/26/91
- Grant Award: 3/4/91
- Current Status: The group selected a Technical Advisor

## Fiscal and Program Management

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- **Remedial Project Manager (EPA):** Earl G. Hendrick, 214-665-8519, Mail Code: 6SF-AP
- **State Contact:** (TNRCC) Jim Sher, 512-239-2444, Mail Code 144; Michael Moore, 512/239-2483, Mail Code 143
- **Community Involvement Coordinator (EPA):** Donn Walters, 214-665-6483, Mail Code: 6SF-PO
- **Attorney (EPA):** Anne Foster, 214-665-2169, Mail Code: 6SF-DL
- **State Coordinator (EPA):** Shirley Workman, 214-665-8522, Mail Code: 6SF-AP

### Cost Recovery: State-lead (Fund)

- PRPs Identified: 11
- Viable PRP: 10
- Cost recovery is being pursued.

## Present Status and Issues

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- Incineration is now finished, the incinerator facilities have been removed and the site has been planted with local grasses.
- The preliminary Close Out Report documenting completion of construction activities was signed in January 1995.
- The final Close Out Report and the start of site deletion should occur in early 1997.
- O&M began in 1996, second year baseline monitoring to be conducted in 1997.

## Benefits

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- Removal actions and fencing the site reduced imminent threats from the site, and discouraged access to the site by local children.
- 496,254 tons of contaminated soil and sludge, and 350 million gallons of contaminated water were treated through the incineration remedy.